

16058

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket apparatus for connecting and supporting a beam of a walkway and a helical anchor, comprising:

a beam restrainer portion having a generally horizontally extending bottom plate for supporting a beam and at least one generally vertically extending side plate for attachment to the beam;

a generally vertically extending shaft having an upper end attached to said bottom plate and a lower end, said shaft including a connecting plate attached thereto and extending radially therefrom; and

a connector assembly having an upper end releasably connected to said connecting plate and a lower end adapted to be connected to an upper end of a helical anchor, said connector assembly upper end being selectively attachable to said connecting plate to provide a length adjustment between said connecting plate and said connector assembly lower end.

2. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said connecting plate extends in a plane angled from a plane in which said bottom plate extends.

3. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said connecting plate extends radially at an angle from a longitudinal axis of said beam restrainer portion.

4. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said connecting plate is welded to said shaft.

5. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said connector assembly includes a threaded rod having an upper end and a lower end, said upper end extending through an aperture formed in said connecting plate and being releasably attached to said connecting plate by a pair of nuts threadably engaging said rod.



16058

6. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said lower end is attached to a bracket by another pair of nuts threadably engaging said rod.

7. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said bracket is generally U-shaped for receiving the upper end of the helical anchor.

8. (Original) The bracket apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one side plate of said beam restrainer portion includes a plurality of apertures formed therein, said apertures operable to receive fasteners for securing the beam to said at least one side plate.

9. (Currently Amended) A bracket for use in supporting a walkway comprising:

a bracket including a beam restrainer having a generally horizontally extending bottom plate for supporting a beam and at least one generally vertically extending side plate for attachment to the beam, a generally vertically extending shaft having an upper end attached to said bottom plate, and a connecting plate attached to and extending radially from said shaft in a plane angled from a plane of said bottom plate; and

a connector assembly including a threaded rod having an upper end releasably attached to said connecting plate and a lower end, and a bracket releasably attached to said rod lower end, said rod upper end being attached to said connecting plate in a selected one of a plurality of ~~position~~ positions along said rod, said bracket adapted to be attached to an end of a helical anchor.

10. (Original) The bracket according to claim 9 wherein said connecting plate extends radially at an angle from a longitudinal axis of said beam restrainer.

11. (Currently Amended) A walkway supporting bracket and anchor apparatus comprising:

a screw anchor having an upper end with an aperture formed therein;

16058

a connector assembly having a lower end releasably attached to said screw anchor upper end by a fastener extending through said aperture; and

a bracket assembly releasably attached to an upper end of said connector assembly for transferring a load applied to said bracket to said helical anchor, said bracket assembly including a beam restrainer having a generally horizontally extending bottom plate for supporting a beam and at least one generally vertically extending side plate for attachment to the beam, a generally vertically extending shaft having an upper end attached to said bottom plate, and a connecting plate attached to and extending radially from said shaft in a plane angled from a plane of said bottom plate, said connecting plate being releasably attached to said upper end of said connector assembly.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said connector assembly includes a generally U-shaped bracket having a pair of legs, said upper end of said screw anchor extending between said legs and said fastener extending through said legs.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said connector assembly includes a threaded rod releasably attached at a lower end to said generally U-shaped bracket and releasably attached at an upper end to said bracket assembly.

Claim 14 (Cancelled)